

Employee Suggestion Program

State of Wisconsin:
Jim Doyle, Governor
Office of State Employment Relations:
Karen E. Timberlake, Director

Employee Suggestion Board:

James Behrend, Chair
Sandy Drew, Member
David Vriezen, Member

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -- November 16, 2004

Seven state employees are being honored by the State Employee Suggestion Board for their efforts in improving efficiencies and reducing costs in state government in 2003 and 2004, Karen E. Timberlake, Director of the Office of State Employment Relations announced today. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation also will receive special recognition for its active participation in the Wisconsin Employee Suggestion Program.

A ceremony honoring the recipients will be held at 11 a.m. today in the Governor's Conference Room in the State Capitol. Lt. Governor Barbara Lawton will be present to give remarks and congratulate the winners.

The award winners are:

• Individual Suggester of the Year 2003:

LAURIE BECKER (Department of Transportation) is being recognized for her suggestion to discontinue leasing microfiche reader/printers for each processor and use department-owned microfiche readers that are placed in a central location.

• Group Suggestion of the Year 2003:

STEVE WISWELL and DALE KITELINGER (both Department of Transportation, Division of Transportation Investment Management) are being recognized for developing a new sealant to use when installing sensors on the road for the weigh-in-motion and vehicle classifier computers.

• Agency Coordinator of the Year 2003:

MARJORIE McCORMICK (Department of Transportation, Division of Motor Vehicles) is being recognized for her outstanding work as Division Coordinator over the past several years in promoting the Wisconsin Employee Suggestion Program at DOT's Division of Motor Vehicles.

• Agency of the Year 2003 & 2004:

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (Secretary Frank Busalacchi)

The Department of Transportation is being honored as Agency of the Year for 2003 and for 2004, for its employees' continuing active participation in the Employee Suggestion Program and for the commitment the agency continues to show to the program.

MORE

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• Individual Suggester of the Year 2004:

MARY JANE DREXLER (University of Wisconsin – Oshkosh) is being recognized for her suggestion regarding the number of different telephone carriers in her particular work unit being used with varying long-distance telephone rates, ranging from .03 to .39 cents per minute. With help from the Telecommunications department, a single telephone carrier was contacted and a statewide contract was developed which resulted in savings.

• Special Suggestion of the Year 2004:

JULIA ALBIS-HUTCHINGS (Department of Transportation, Division of Motor Vehicles) is being recognized for her suggestion to broadcast messages on Spanish language radio stations regarding safety belt use and child passenger safety, and update the corresponding printed Spanish booklet.

• Agency Coordinator of the Year 2004:

JOHN WILLIHNGANZ (University of Wisconsin – Oshkosh) is being recognized for his commitment as Campus Coordinator over a number of years in promoting the Wisconsin Employee Suggestion Program at UW-Oshkosh.

The Wisconsin Employee Suggestion Program encourages state employees to become agents for change, initiating ideas on ways to improve services, enhance efficiency, and save money for the state. This program is designed not only to stimulate suggestions, but also to recognize employees for their contributions.

For further information, contact the statewide program coordinator, Robert Toomey, at the Office of State Employment Relations, by telephone (608) 266-0664, e-mail Robert.Toomey@oser.state.wi.us, or fax (608) 267-1020.

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